

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8 have been amended. Claims 18-23 have been added. Claims 10-17 were previously withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration.

Interview

Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the telephone interview granted by the Examiner on March 13, 2007. During the interview, the possibility of more definitely reciting the degree of pulverization and peeling was discussed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1-2 in accordance with this discussion. Other points raised during the interview are included in the comments below.

Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action, at page 2, the title of the invention was objected to as not descriptive. The title of the invention has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 2-6, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nishibori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,323,971) in view of Gordon (UK Patent Application GB 2 121 535 A).

Neither Nishibori et al. nor Gordon discuss or suggest:

peeling coating film from pulverized pieces obtained in said
pulverizing by rubbing using a mechanical force for a
predetermined such that the pulverized pieces maintain a particle
diameter of at least a predetermined size,

as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the invention of claim 1 provides for peeling the pulverized pieces by rubbing using a mechanical force for a *predetermined time* such that the pulverized pieces *maintain a particle diameter of at least a predetermined size*. In this manner, the peeling is not performed for such a long period of time and to such a degree that the pulverized pieces become too small to be read by the sensor for the presence of coating film. Furthermore, by providing for the pulverized pieces to maintain a particle diameter of at least a predetermined size, subsequent recycle molding can be better performed. In contrast, Nishibori

et al. provides for completely compressing the crushed pieces such that they are finely pulverized and does not limit the peeling to a predetermined time such that the pieces maintain a predetermined diameter. As such, the remaining pieces are too small to perform recycle molding in the same manner as the invention of claim 1. While Nishibori et al. does provide that the resin material may not be completely cleared of the resin film, the resin material is so finely pulverized that it would be difficult for a sensor to accurately detect the presence of the resin film. Clearly, the object of Nishibori et al. is complete peeling, and such is the reason that Nishibori et al. is silent regarding sensing and determining the presence of resin film for each individual pulverized piece after the peeling, as is conceded by the Examiner.

Further, it would not have been obvious to have combined the process of Nishibori et al. with the detector of Gordon in order to focus the practicing of the method of separating the skin and resin by detecting the object with the desired skin and resin characteristics. As discussed above, Nishibori et al. is concerned with complete peeling and, to that end, provides for pulverizing the resin material pieces into fine particles without regard for particle size. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not contemplate separating the remaining pieces based on the presence of resin film, as the remaining pieces have been peeled such that little or no resin film actually remains. There is no adequate motivation to combine the process of Nishibori et al. with the detector of Gordon without having to rely on the Applicant's own disclosure and, even if Nishibori et al. were combined with Gordon, the invention of claim 1 would not result.

Since neither Nishibori et al. nor Gordon discuss or suggest:

peeling coating film from pulverized pieces obtained in said
pulverizing by rubbing using a mechanical force for a
predetermined such that the pulverized pieces maintain a particle
diameter of at least a predetermined size,

as recited in amended claim 1, and there is no adequate motivation to combine the references, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-9, 20, and 22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and include all the features of claim 1, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 3-9, 20, and 22 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

Neither Nishibori et al. nor Gordon discuss or suggest:

peeling coating film from pulverized pieces obtained in said pulverizing by rubbing using a mechanical force for a predetermined such that the pulverized pieces maintain a particle diameter of at least a predetermined size,

as recited in amended claim 2, so that claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the references relied upon. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-19, 21, and 23 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 2, and include all the features of claim 2, plus additional features that are not discussed or suggested by the references relied upon. Therefore, claims 18-19, 21, and 22 patentably distinguish over the references relied upon for at least the reasons noted above. Accordingly, withdrawal of these § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-23 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

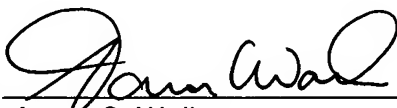
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Aaron C. Walker
Registration No. 59,921

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501